UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/030,969	01/15/2002	Junichi Morita	21900/0046	2820

7590 04/20/2005	EXAMINER
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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2645	

DATE MAILED: 04/20/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	10/030,969	MORITA ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Olisa Anwah	2645

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.

2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b) ☒ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) _1-21_ is/are pending in the application.

   4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☒ Claim(s) _8-12_ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) _1-7 and 13-21_ is/are rejected.

7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.

   Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

   Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

   a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:

   1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

   2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

   3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

   * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
      Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
      Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs

of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under

this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -
>
> (e) the invention was described in-
> (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another
> filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for
> patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty
> defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a
> national application published under section 122(b) only if the
> international application designating the United States was published under
> Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or
> (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the
> United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that
> a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of
> this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed
> under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

2.   Claims 1-7 and 13-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

as being anticipated by Sakurai et al, U.S. Patent No. 5,586,172

(hereinafter Sakurai).

Regarding claim 1, Sakurai discloses a voice storage system

(see Figure 13) comprising:

a circuit switched network (10) for performing

communication by circuit switching;

a first telephone (111) which is connected to said circuit

switched network and performs voice communication;

an exchange (100) which is connected to said circuit

switched network and performs voice switching;

one or a plurality of private telephones (7,8,9) which are

connected to said exchange and perform voice communication; and

a voice storage apparatus (6) which is connected to said

exchange, stores voice in at least speech communication

recording by voice data and an external message transmitted from

said exchange, and establishes synchronization between said

voice data and said external message transmitted from said

exchange, thereby controlling storage of speech communication

voice.

Regarding claim 2, Sakurai discloses an exchange of a voice

storage system (see Figure 13),

said voice storage system comprising:

a circuit switched network (10) for performing

communication by circuit switching;

a first telephone (111) which is connected to said circuit

switched network and performs voice communication;

an exchange (100) which is connected to said circuit

switched network and performs voice switching;

one or a plurality of private telephones (7,8,9) which are

connected to said exchange and perform voice communication; and

a voice storage apparatus (6) which is connected to said

exchange, stores voice in at least speech communication

recording by voice data and an external message transmitted from

said exchange, and establishes synchronization between said

voice data and said external message transmitted from said

exchange, thereby controlling storage of speech communication

voice,

said exchange comprising:

network communicating means (113) for performing connection

with said circuit switched network;

circuit switching means (114) for performing circuit

connection between said circuit switched networks or terminals;

terminal communicating means (3) for performing connection

between said exchange and one or a plurality of said private

telephones;

entire exchange controlling means (5) for controlling said

entire exchange;

exchange time stamp generating means (103) for generating a

time stamp;

exchange voice data controlling means (see Figure 13) for

acquiring said time stamp from said exchange time stamp

generating means, imparting said time stamp to voice data

obtained from said circuit switching means, and generating said

voice data;

exchange external message controlling means (102) for

acquiring said time stamp from said exchange time stamp

generating means, imparting said time stamp to an event obtained

from said entire exchange controlling means, and generating an

external message; and

voice storage apparatus communicating means (117) for

performing communication with said voice storage apparatus.

Regarding claim 3, Sakurai discloses a voice storage

apparatus of a voice storage system (see Figure 13),

said voice storage system comprising:

a circuit switched network (10) for performing

communication by circuit switching;

a first telephone (111) which is connected to said circuit

switched network and performs voice communication;

an exchange (100) which is connected to said circuit

switched network and performs voice switching;

one or a plurality of private telephones (7,8,9) which are

connected to said exchange and perform voice communication; and

said voice storage apparatus which is connected to said

exchange, stores voice in at least speech communication

recording by voice data and an external message transmitted from

said exchange, and establishes synchronization between said

voice data and said external message transmitted from said

exchange, thereby controlling storage of speech communication

voice (column 13),

said voice storage apparatus comprising:

exchange communicating means for receiving said external

message (115) and said voice data (117) transmitted from said

exchange;

storage apparatus external message controlling means (see

Figure 13) for performing control for fetching said received

external message;

storage apparatus voice data controlling means (see Figures

2B and 13) for controlling said received voice data;

storage apparatus time stamp acquiring means (102) for

acquiring said time stamps from said external message and said

voice data;

entire voice storage apparatus controlling means for

establishing synchronization of said event by said private

telephone obtained from said external message and said speech

communication voice obtained from said voice data and

controlling said entire voice storage apparatus (columns 13-17);

and

storage apparatus voice storing means (6) for storing said

speech communication voice.

Regarding claim 4, see columns 1-17.

Regarding claim 5, Sakurai discloses a voice storage system

comprising:

a circuit switched network (10) for performing

communication by circuit switching;

a first telephone (111) which is connected to said circuit

switched network and performs voice communication;

an exchange (100) which is connected to said circuit

switched network and performs voice switching; and

a voice storage apparatus (6) which is connected to said

exchange, and changes reproduced voice by voice data and an

external message transmitted from said exchange,

wherein reproduced voice is changed when said exchange

establishes synchronization between said voice data and said

external message (columns 13-17).

Regarding claim 6, Sakurai discloses an exchange of a voice

storage system,

said voice storage system comprising:

a circuit switched network (10) for performing communication by circuit switching;

a first telephone (111) which is connected to said circuit switched network and performs voice communication;

an exchange (100) which is connected to said circuit switched network and performs voice switching; and

a voice storage apparatus (6) which is connected to said exchange, and changes reproduced voice by voice data and an external message transmitted from said exchange,

reproduced voice being changed when said exchange establishes synchronization between said voice data and said external data (columns 13-17),

said exchange comprising:

network communicating means (113) for performing connection with said circuit switched network;

circuit switching means (2) for performing circuit connection between said circuit switched networks or terminals;

terminal communicating means (3) for performing connection between said exchange and one or a plurality of private telephones;

entire exchange controlling means (5) for controlling said entire exchange;

exchange voice data controlling means (22) for controlling voice data obtained from said circuit switching means and said voice data transmitted from said voice storage apparatus;

exchange DTMF detection/analysis controlling means (column 5) for detecting/analyzing DTMF information from said voice data obtained from said circuit switching means and converting said information into key information;

exchange external message controlling means for generating at least an external message from an event obtained from said entire exchange controlling means and said key information obtained from said exchange DTMF detection/analysis controlling means (column 6);

exchange time stamp acquiring means (102) for acquiring time stamps from said voice data and said external message transmitted from said voice storage apparatus;

exchange voice storing means (21) for storing reproduced voice from said voice data controlled by said entire exchange controlling means based on control information and a time stamp obtained from said external message; and

voice storage apparatus communicating means (117) for performing communication with said voice storage apparatus.

Regarding claim 7, Sakurai discloses a voice storage apparatus of a voice storage system (see Figure 13),

said voice storage system comprising:

said voice storage system comprising:

a circuit switched network (10) for performing communication by circuit switching;

a first telephone (111) which is connected to said circuit switched network and performs voice communication;

an exchange (100) which is connected to said circuit switched network and performs voice switching; and

said voice storage apparatus (6) which is connected to said exchange, and changes reproduced voice by voice data and an external message transmitted from said exchange,

reproduced voice being changed when said exchange establishes synchronization between said voice data and said external data (column 13),

said voice storage apparatus comprising:

exchange communicating means for receiving said external

message (115) and said voice data (117) transmitted from said

exchange;

storage apparatus external message controlling means for

generating at least an external message (102) to be transmitted

to said exchange;

storage apparatus voice data controlling means (see Figures

13 and 2B) for controlling reproduced voice to be transmitted to

said exchange;

storage apparatus time stamp generating means (103) for

generating said time stamp;

entire voice storage apparatus controlling means (22) for

controlling said entire voice storage apparatus;

and storage apparatus voice storing means (6) for storing

reproduced voice to be transmitted to said exchange.

Regarding claim 13, Sakurai discloses a voice storage system

comprising:

a circuit switched network (10) for performing communication

by circuit switching;

a first telephone (111) which is connected to said circuit switched network and performs voice communication;

an exchange (100) which is connected to said circuit switched network and performs voice switching; and

a voice storage apparatus (6) which is connected to said exchange, and changes reproduced voice by voice data and an external message transmitted from said exchange,

wherein said voice storage apparatus transmits a part of the whole voice which can be a next reproduction candidate during transmission of said voice data, and said exchange stores said part of the whole voice which can be a next reproduction candidate concurrently with voice reproduction, reproduces a part of said voice which has been already stored when changing said reproduced voice, and subsequently reproduces voice transmitted from said voice storage apparatus after changing said reproduced voice (columns 13-17).

Regarding claim 14, see columns 13-17.

Regarding claim 15, see columns 13-17.

Regarding claim 16, see columns 13-17.

Regarding claim 17, Sakurai discloses an exchange of a voice storage system,

said voice storage system comprising:

a circuit switched network (10) for performing communication by circuit switching;

a first telephone (111) which is connected to said circuit switched network and performs voice communication;

said exchange (100) which is connected to said circuit switched network and performs voice switching; and

a voice storage apparatus (6) which is connected to said exchange, and changes reproduced voice by voice data and an external message transmitted from said exchange, said voice storage apparatus being configured to transmit a part of the whole voice which can be a next reproduction candidate during transmission of said voice data, said exchange being configured to store said part of the whole voice which can be a next reproduction candidate concurrently with voice reproduction, reproduce a part of said voice which has been already stored when changing said reproduced voice and subsequently reproduce voice

transmitted from said voice storage apparatus after changing said

reproduced voice,

wherein said exchange comprises:

network communicating means (11) for performing connection

with said circuit switched network;

circuit switching means (see Figure 13) for performing

circuit connection between said circuit switched networks or

terminals;

terminal communicating means (3) for performing connection

between said exchange and one or a plurality of private

telephones;

entire exchange controlling means (5) for controlling said

entire exchange;

exchange voice data controlling means (see Figure 13) for

controlling voice data obtained from said circuit switching means

and said voice data transmitted by said voice storage apparatus;

exchange DTMF detection/analysis controlling means (column

5) for detecting/analyzing DTMF information from said voice data

obtained from said circuit switching means and converting it into

key information;

exchange external message controlling means (column 6) for generating at least an external message from an event obtained from said entire exchange controlling means and said key information obtained by said exchange DTMF detection/analysis controlling means;

exchange reproduction candidate controlling means (22) for controlling data of a part of the whole voice which has been transmitted from said voice storage apparatus and can be a next reproduction; and

exchange voice storing means (21) for storing reproduced voice obtained from said voice data controlled by said entire exchange controlling means based on said external message information and simultaneously storing data of said part of the -whole voice which has been transmitted from said exchange reproduction candidate controlling means and can be a next reproduction candidate.

Regarding claim 18, Sakurai discloses a voice storage apparatus of a voice storage system,

said voice storage system comprising:

a circuit switched network (1) for performing communication by circuit switching;

a first telephone (111) which is connected to said circuit switched network and performs voice communication;

an exchange (100) which is connected to said circuit switched network and performs voice switching;

and said voice storage apparatus (6) which is connected to said exchange, and changes reproduced voice by voice data and an external message transmitted from said exchange, said voice storage apparatus being configured to transmit a part of the whole voice which can be a next reproduction candidate during transmission of said voice data, said exchange being configured to store said part of the whole voice which can be a next reproduction candidate concurrently with voice reproduction, reproduce a part of said voice which has been already stored when changing said reproduced voice and subsequently reproduce voice transmitted from said voice storage apparatus after changing said reproduced voice,

wherein said voice storage apparatus comprises:

exchange communicating means for receiving said external

message (115) and said voice data (117) transmitted from said

exchange;

storage apparatus external message controlling means (103)

for generating at least an external message to be transmitted to

said exchange;

storage apparatus voice data controlling means (Figure 2B)

for controlling reproduced voice to be transmitted to said

exchange;

entire voice storage apparatus controlling means (5) for

controlling said entire voice storage apparatus;

storage apparatus voice storing means (21) for storing

reproduced voice to be transmitted to said exchange; and

storage apparatus reproduction candidate controlling (22)

means for using said storage apparatus voice storing means to

acquire a part the whole voice which can be a next reproduction

candidate based on current voice data which is being transmitted

by said exchange communicating means and transmit it to said

exchange.

Regarding claim 19, see columns 1-17.

Regarding claim 20, Sakurai discloses an exchange of a voice
storage system,

said voice storage system comprising:

a circuit switched network (10) for performing communication
by circuit switching;

a first telephone (111) which is connected to said circuit
switched network and performs voice communication;

said exchange which is connected to said circuit switched
network and performs voice switching (see Figure 13); and

a voice storage apparatus (6) which is connected to said
exchange, and changes reproduced voice by voice data and an
external message transmitted from said exchange, said voice
storage apparatus being configured to transmit a part of the
whole voice which can be a next reproduction candidate during
transmission of said voice data, said exchange being configured
to store said part of the whole voice which can be a next
reproduction candidate concurrently with voice reproduction,
reproduce a part of said voice which has been already stored when
changing said reproduced voice and subsequently reproduce voice
transmitted from said voice storage apparatus after changing said
reproduced voice, said exchange being configured to perform

reproduction of voice transmitted from said voice storage

apparatus following reproduction of said part of the voice which

has been already stored based on a time stamp imparted to said

part of the voice and a time stamp imparted to said voice

transmitted from said voice storage apparatus after changing said

reproduced voice (columns 13-17),

wherein said exchange comprises:

network communicating means (2) for performing connection

with said circuit switched network;

circuit switching means (see Figure 13) for performing

circuit connection between said circuit switched network or

terminals;

terminal communicating means (3) for performing connection

between said exchange and a private telephone;

entire exchange controlling means (5) for controlling said

entire exchange;

exchange voice data controlling means (see Figure 2B) for

controlling voice data obtained from said circuit switching means

and said voice data transmitted by said voice storage apparatus;

exchange DTMF detecting means (column 5) for detecting DTMF information from said voice data obtained from said circuit switching means and converting it into key information;

exchange external message controlling means (column 6) for generating at least an external message from an event obtained from said entire exchange controlling means and said key information obtained by said exchange DTMF detecting means;

exchange reproduction candidate controlling means (see Figure 2B) for controlling a part of the whole voice which has been transmitted from said voice storage apparatus and can be a next reproduction candidate;

exchange voice storing means (6) for storing said voice data and simultaneously storing said part of the whole voice which has been transmitted from said exchange reproduction candidate controlling means and can be a next reproduction candidate;

exchange time stamp acquiring means (103) for acquiring time stamps from said voice data and a part of changed voice; and exchange reproduction candidate reproducing means for reproducing said part of said changed voice.

Regarding claim 21, Sakurai discloses a voice storage

apparatus of a voice storage system, said voice storage system

comprising:

a circuit switched network (10) for performing communication

by circuit switching;

a first telephone (111) which is connected to said circuit

switched network and performs voice communication;

an exchange (100) which is connected to said circuit

switched network and performs voice switching;

and said voice storage apparatus which is connected to said

exchange, and changes reproduced voice by voice data and an

external message transmitted from said exchange, said voice

storage apparatus being configured to transmit a part of the

whole voice which can be a next reproduction candidate during

transmission of said voice data, said exchange being configured

to store said part of the whole voice which can be a next

reproduction candidate concurrently with voice reproduction,

reproduce a part of said voice which has been already stored when

changing said reproduced voice and subsequently reproduce voice

transmitted from said voice storage apparatus after changing said

reproduced voice, said exchange being configured to perform

reproduction of voice transmitted from said voice storage
apparatus following reproduction of said part of the voice which
has been already stored based on a time stamp imparted to said
part of the voice and a time stamp imparted to said voice
transmitted from said voice storage apparatus after changing said
reproduced voice (columns 13-17),

wherein said voice storage apparatus comprises:

exchange communicating means for receiving said external
message (115) and said voice data (117) transmitted from said
exchange;

storage apparatus external message (102) controlling means
for generating at least an external message to be transmitted to
said exchange;

storage apparatus voice data controlling means (see Figure
13) for controlling reproduced voice to be transmitted to said
exchange;

storage apparatus time stamp generating means (103) for
generating said time stamp;

entire voice storage apparatus controlling means (22) for
controlling said entire voice storage apparatus; storage

apparatus voice storing means (21) for storing reproduced voice to be transmitted to said exchange; and

storage apparatus reproduction candidate controlling means (see Figure 13) for using said storage apparatus voice storing means to acquire a part of the whole voice which can be a next transmission candidate based on current voice data which is being transmitted by said exchange communicating means and transmitting it to said exchange.

Allowable Subject Matter

3.   Claims 8 through 12 are allowed. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance the prior art of record fails to show the buffer clearing means is based on a clearing request <u>transmitted from said voice storage apparatus</u>.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee.   Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Olisa Anwah whose telephone number is 571-272-7533. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 8.30 AM to 6 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Fan Tsang can be reached on 571-272-7547. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9314 for regular communications and 703-872-9314 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

Olisa Anwah
Patent Examiner
April 10, 2005

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